

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-7, 14-15, 17-18, 20-22, 25-26 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the Price et al. patent (USP 6,496,564). In addition, claims 36-40 were also rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by the Carlson et al. patent (USP 4,577,340). Finally, claims 8, 12-13, 16, 27-31 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Price et al. patent in combination with the Carlson et al. patent.

Further, claims 41-43 were allowed and claims 9-11, 19, and 23-24 were deemed to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of the "allowable" claims, namely claims 9-11, 19 and 23-24, have been rewritten in independent form. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, with claim 9 being cancelled; claim 10 has been combined with the subject matter of claim 1 and presented as new claim 44; claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 19, with claim 19 being cancelled; claim 23 has been combined with the subject matter of claim 17 and rewritten as new claim 46; and claim 24 has been combined with the subject matter of claim 17 and rewritten as new claim 47. Also, allowable claim 11 has been amended to become dependent from new claim 1, and the subject matter of claim 11 has also been added as new claim 45 dependent from new claim 44.

In this regard, by rewriting the allowable dependent claims in independent form, the Applicant is not agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's rejections based on the prior art. Instead, the Applicant is merely taking what has been allowed at this time in order to reduce the issues in the case and secure a Letters Patent. The Applicant reserves the right to file a

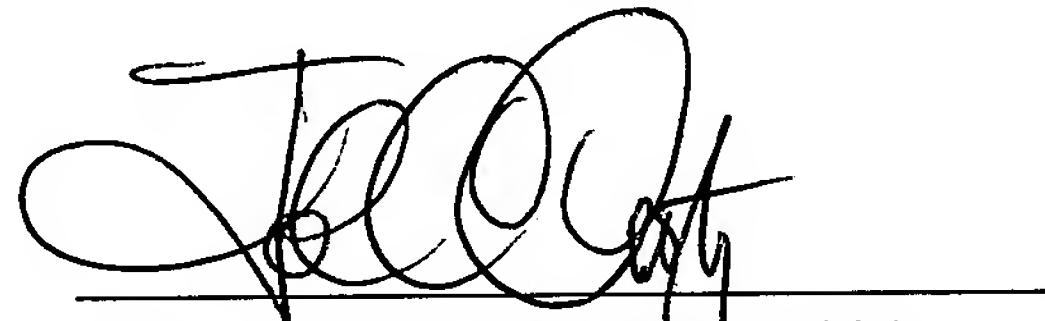
continuation application relative to the subject matter of the claims being cancelled herein.

Accordingly, it is believed that all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 1-8, 10-17, and 20-47 are in proper form and patentable distinguish from the prior art. Allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.



John A. Artz, Reg. No. 25,824
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500

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